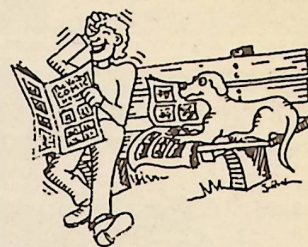


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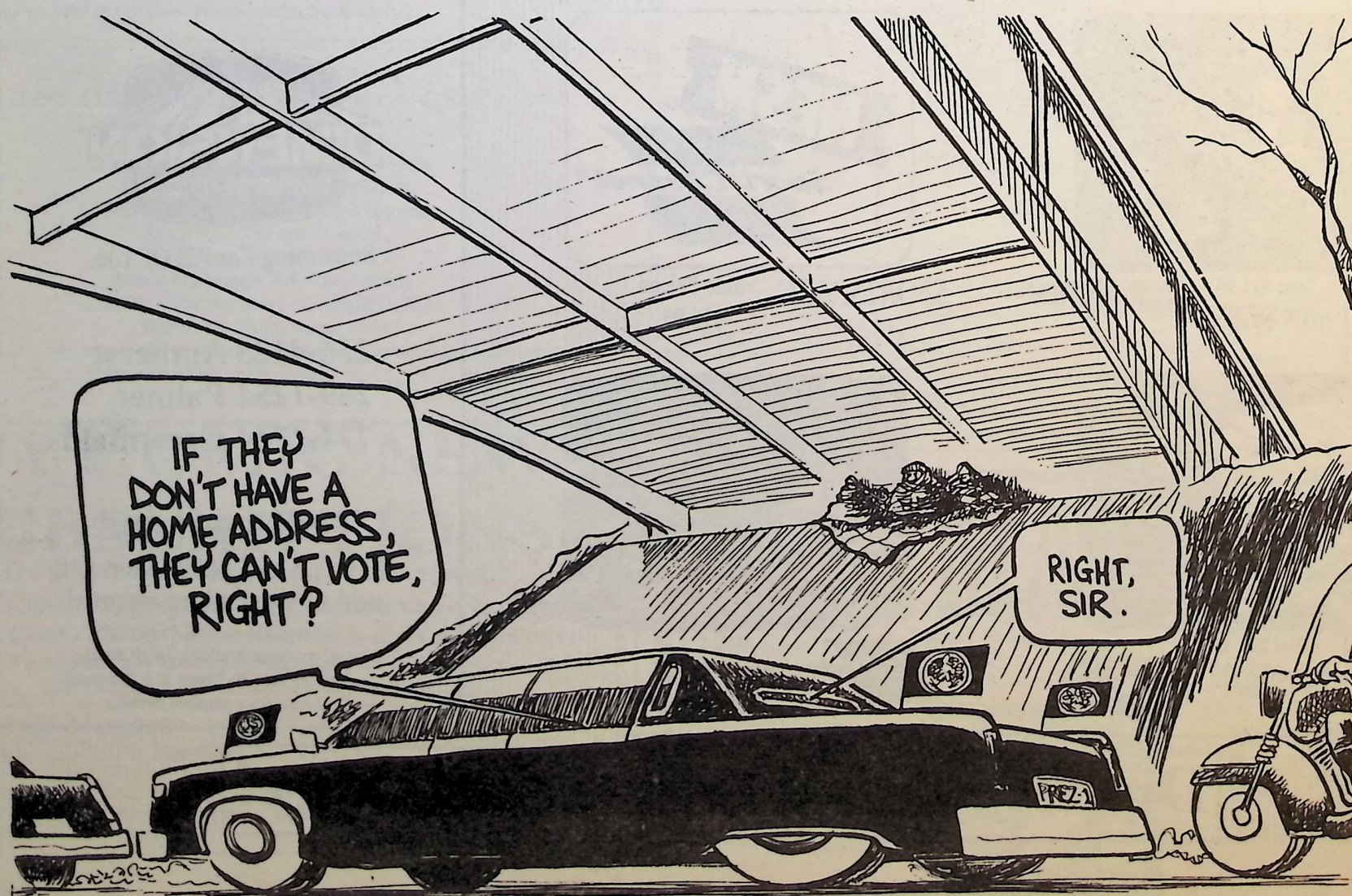


ISSUE #54  
January 9, 1992

FREE

**FEATURES:** THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,  
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,  
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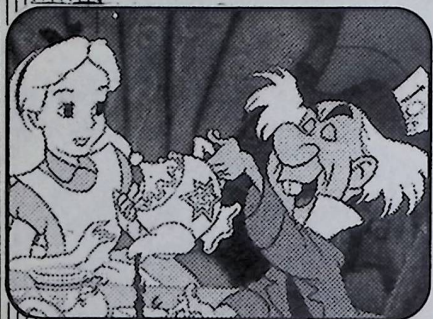


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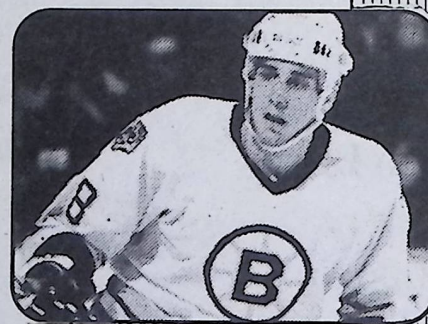


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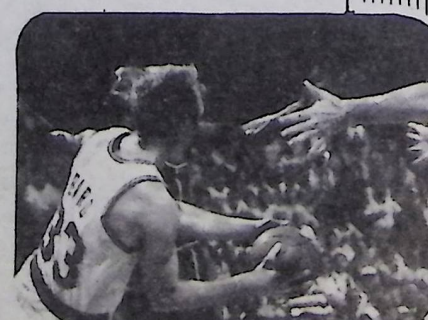


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# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

One of the things I do is I'm a gardener. This means around Christmas, while the rest of you are receiving your finalist notices from Publishers' Clearing House, I'm getting seed catalogues. Usually this is good. By now I've mostly weeded out (ha ha) the ones I don't need. Good gardeners know the catalogues I mean; their pictures have captions like: "Grow Tomatoes The Size Of Rhode Island!!!" Or this one recently: "Blue-Ribbon Four-Foot Carrots Thrive In Dryer Lint!!!" You get the idea.

But I wasn't quite prepared for the announcement by Wayside Gardens of Hodges, South Carolina, that there's a new hybrid rose I really ought to buy. It's called the "Desert Peace" Rose, and it was created specially to commemorate the (and I quote) "peaceful conclusion of conflict in the Middle East." I'm not kidding about this. "Peaceful conclusion." Must be that all those missiles we saw punching all those Iraqi doorbells actually were just graphics in a way cool video game. And those 200,000 Iraqis who bit the dry Iraqi dust — that was only the game's final score. Cool, man — two hundred thousand! That's like a new record! I'm gonna put in my initials, dude...U.S.A!

Fortunately, I'm a realist. I know a good history revision/marketing opportunity when I see one. I figure this Desert Peace Rose is gonna sell to a lot of people with short memories. So I'd like to propose a couple of other agricultural products, new this year from Revisionist Seeds.

First, who not try the Ebony & Ivory Bean? This gem thrives in all growing regions, North and South. It's just the thing to commemorate the absence of racial tensions in the United States. Or, if race relations isn't your bag...then there's certainly no better vegetable to honor the end of the war between the sexes than the Gloria Steinem Potato. And if that's not enough -- for every red, white, and blue gardener who loves the lip-smacking taste of fresh sweet corn (and who doesn't?), there's only one way to celebrate America's victory over AIDS: that's right; it's Magic Johnson Super Sweet.

Plus, for gardening accessories, try our Reagan Trickle-Down Potting Soil — a virtual guarantee that plants on the top end of your garden plan will receive all the nutrients they need, then will magically *make even more* to pass on to the plants at the lower end. Doesn't seem possible, does it? It's just another in a long string of miracles from your Revisionist friends.

So be on the lookout, folks. There's new ideas in the winter wind, and people eager to sell 'em to you. I'd fill you in on lots more more neat stuff, but I've got to get some things planted in my Ollie North Patriot Seed-Starter....

## The Valley Comic News

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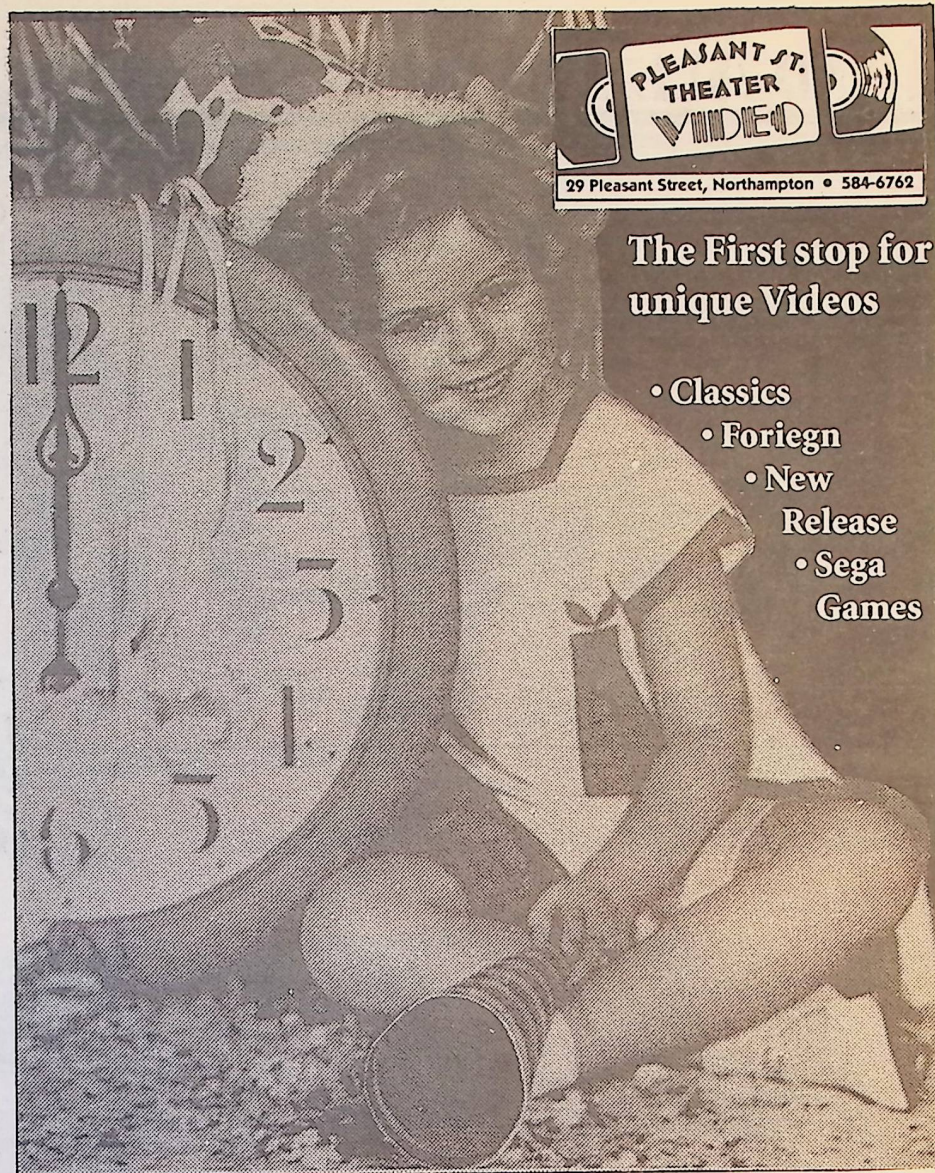
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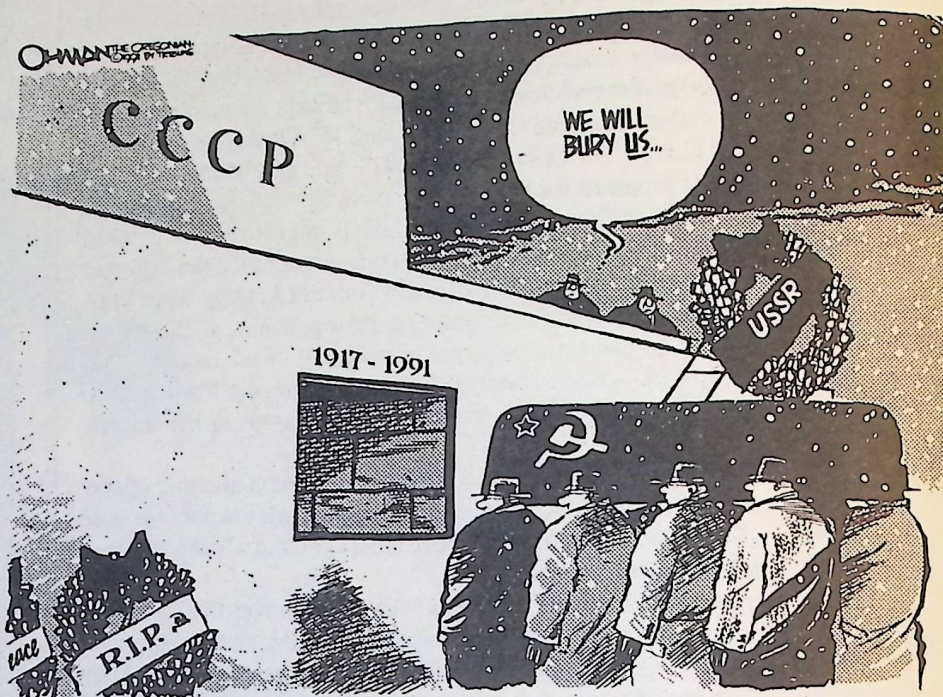
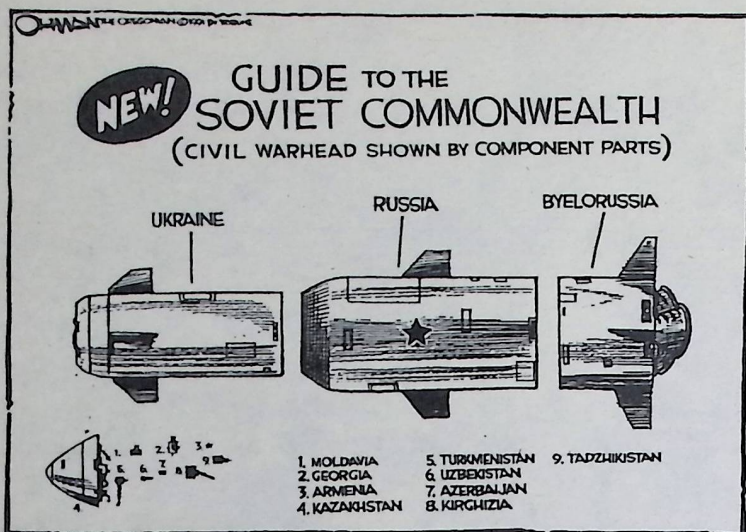
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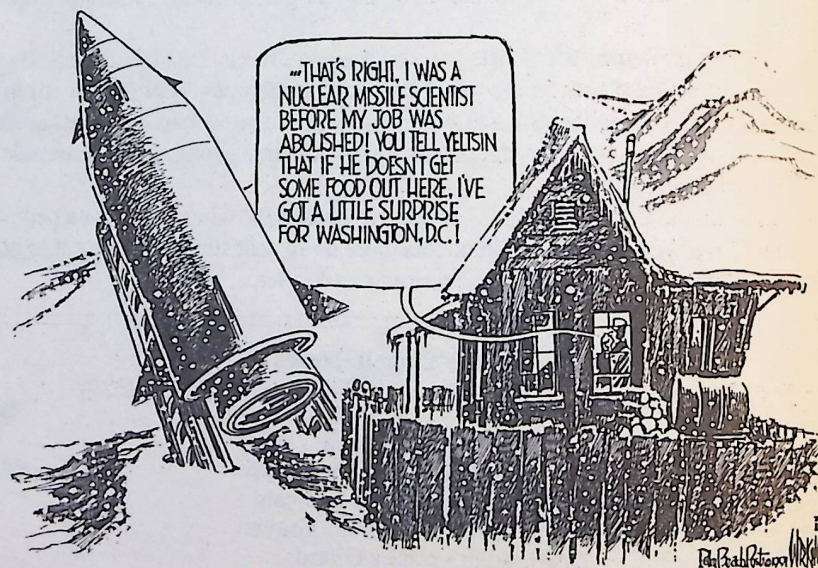
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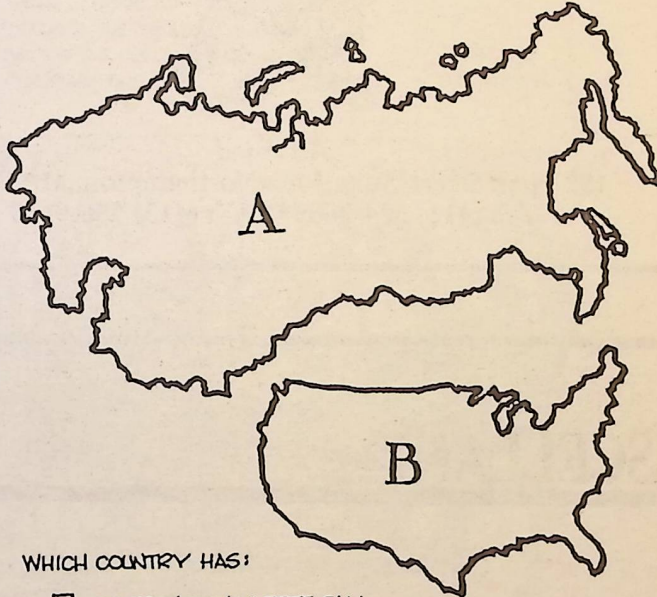




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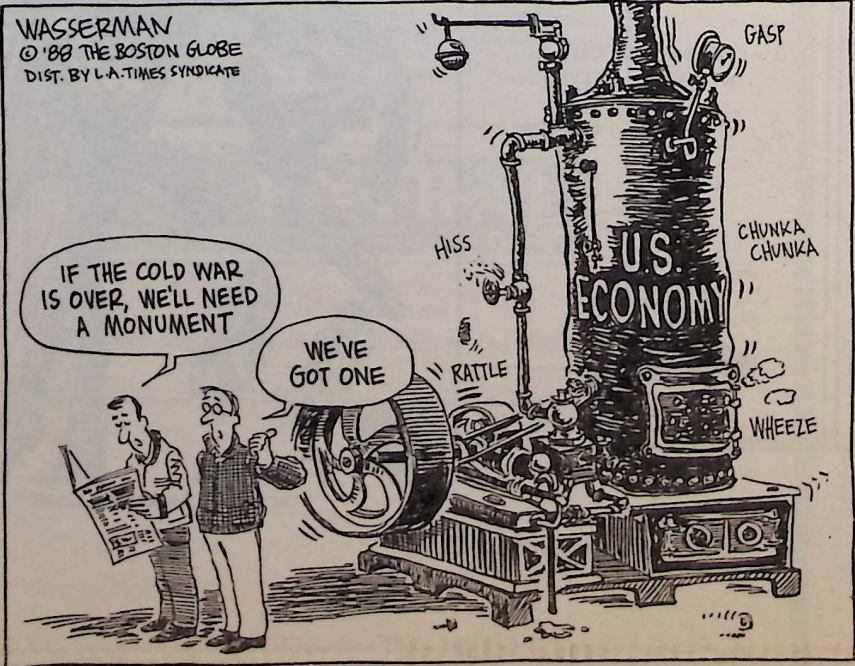


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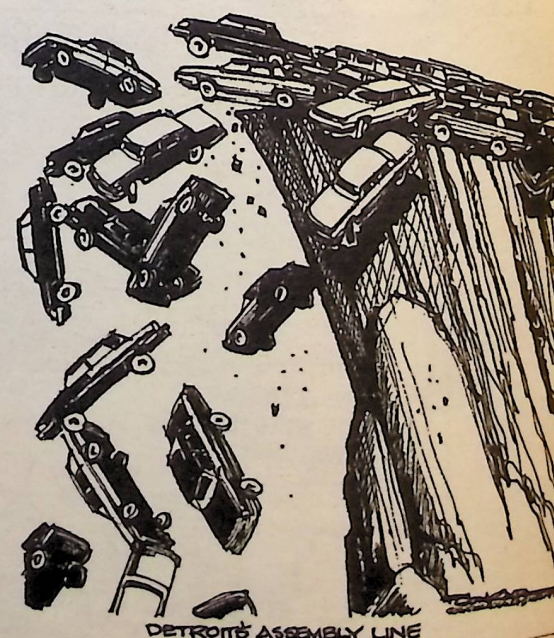
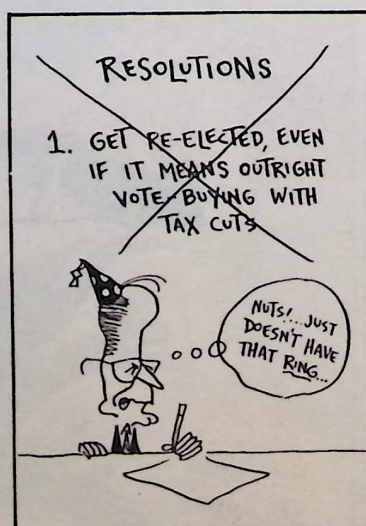
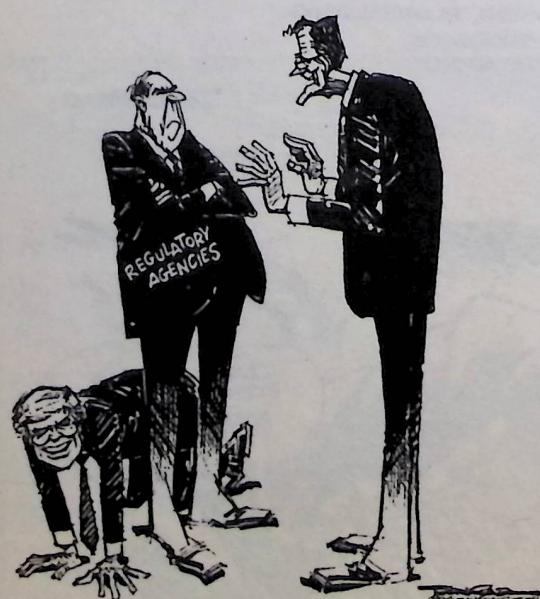
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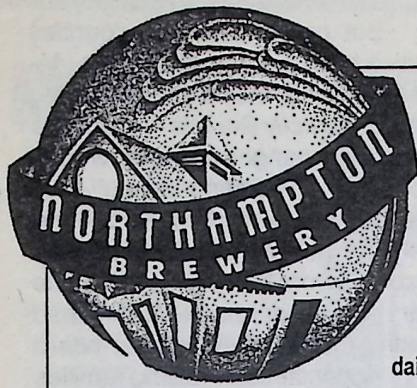
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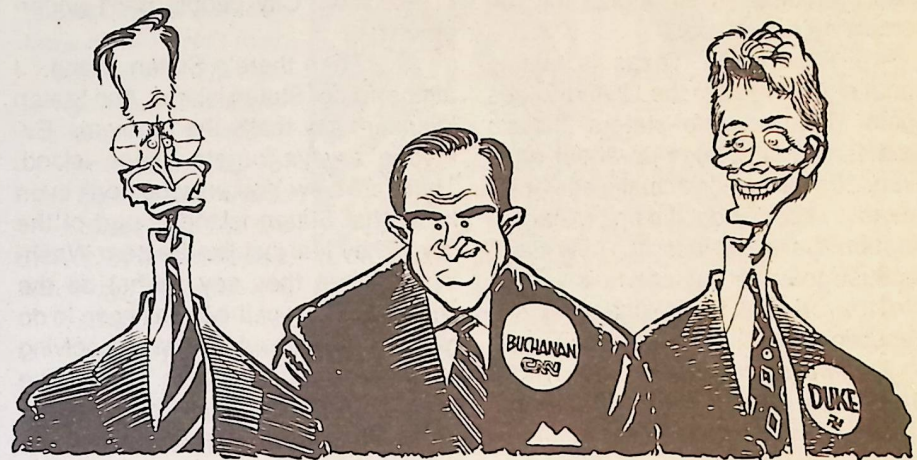
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# JOE BOB BRIGGS

Northern California — the part with the redwoods, the peach groves, the mountains, the water, and the recreational vehicles — wants to secede from the rest of California. They're serious about it. They don't even want San Francisco or Sacramento, but they *do* want Petaluma. That oughta tell you something right there.

Meanwhile, Texas is talking about seceding from the United States again. (For you out-of-staters, this is a discussion that comes up about once every 20 years.) It's actually easier for Texas to secede from the union than for Northern California to form a new state, because the right to secede is written into the original treaty changing the Republic of Texas to the state of Texas. So it's always dangling out there, like a temptation, every time the Texas-bashing gets especially intense. In the sixties somebody wrote a Texas best-seller called "The Five States of Texas," describing just how the state would be carved up into five separate states and what the borders would be (this is *another* right under the provisions of that same treaty.)

Then we've got the case of Eastern Washington. I've never been to Eastern Washington. I can't really tell you what's *in* Eastern Washington —

although I think Spokane is there — and that's just the way the people of Eastern Washington want it. They don't want anybody noticing *them*, and they don't want anything to do with anybody else. They would like to become separate from a "Seattle-dominated" state. (Translation: City people don't understand us.)

Then there's Staten Island. I almost forgot Staten Island. And Staten Islanders say that's the problem. Everyone *always* forgets Staten Island. There are New Yorkers who don't even know that Staten Island is part of the city. They feel just like Eastern Washington when they say, "What do the crime problems of the Bronx have to do with us? Why should we pay for solving them? And why are we treated like second-class citizens just because our lives over here on this little island are boring and middle-class and peaceful?" And so they want to be the first borough to secede from New York City.

Don't forget Upper Michigan, which periodically decides to divorce itself from Lower Michigan.

Then there are the states that don't just talk about it — they *do* it. The people in the backwoods of Virginia didn't care diddly squat about slave-owning in the rest of the state, so when

the Civil War came, they turned into West Virginia. Carolina split into north and south long before that — and anyone who's spent time in both places knows that these are *very* different cultures. These splits always happen for a reason.

New Hampshire fought for its independence from Massachusetts. I'm not making this up. I hope it was a snowball fight.

In other words, the idea of a state line is always a shaky prospect to base anything on in the first place. The only thing they're good for, really, is to put a limit on how far the highway patrol can chase you.

What's going on here in 1991, though? Where did this latest mania to carve everything up and get *smaller* start? Pretty soon somebody will be publishing a book called "The Twelve States of Rhode Island."

I think I have an idea of what's happening.

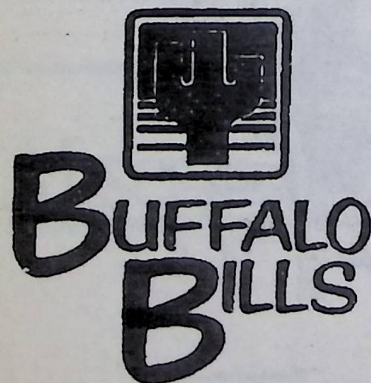
There was a time — people don't remember it now, but it existed — when people formed states and counties and cities in order to grow and build things and make money and raise families and live with other people who wanted to grow and build things and make money and raise families.

But now states and counties and cities have a different mission. Instead of growing, they want everything to stay just *exactly* like it is — because anything that changes only gets worse. And instead of building things, they wanna build security fences around everything that's already there, to keep the arsonists from burning it down or the burglars from vandalizing it. And instead of making money, they want to hoard money. And instead of raising families — which means spending a lot of public money on schools — they want to raise *one* family, their own family, which means spending a lot of private money on the one school their kids attend.

And instead of living with other people who believe in the same things, they wanna live alone. Keep out. Go away. America was a good idea 50 years ago, but get real. This is the nineties.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is 214-368-2310.

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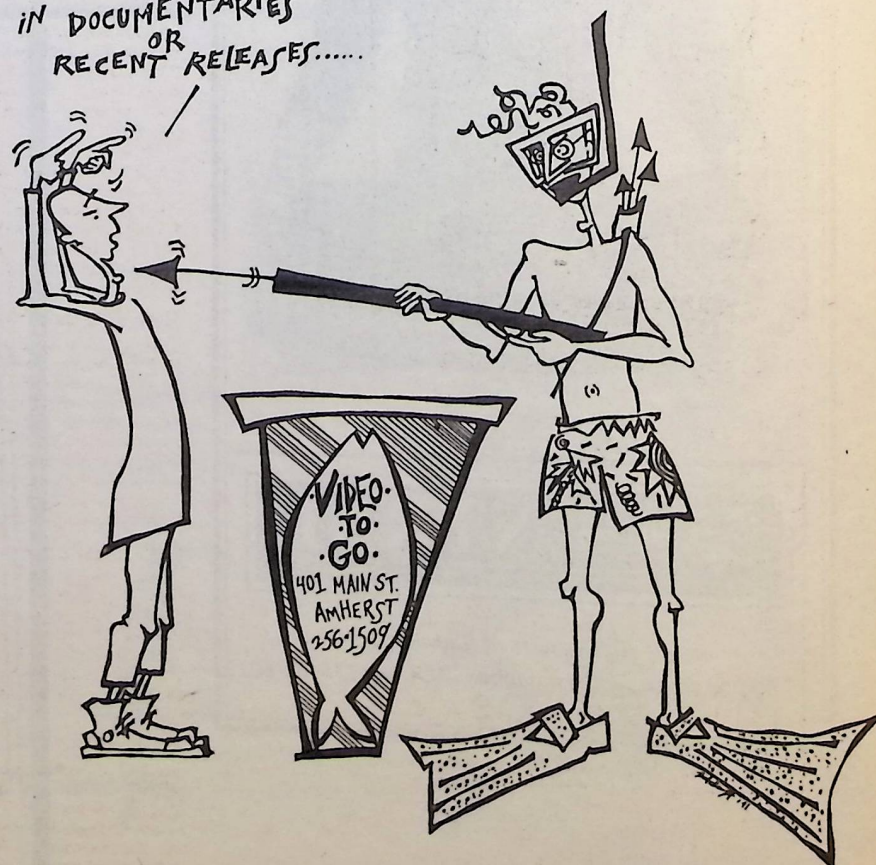
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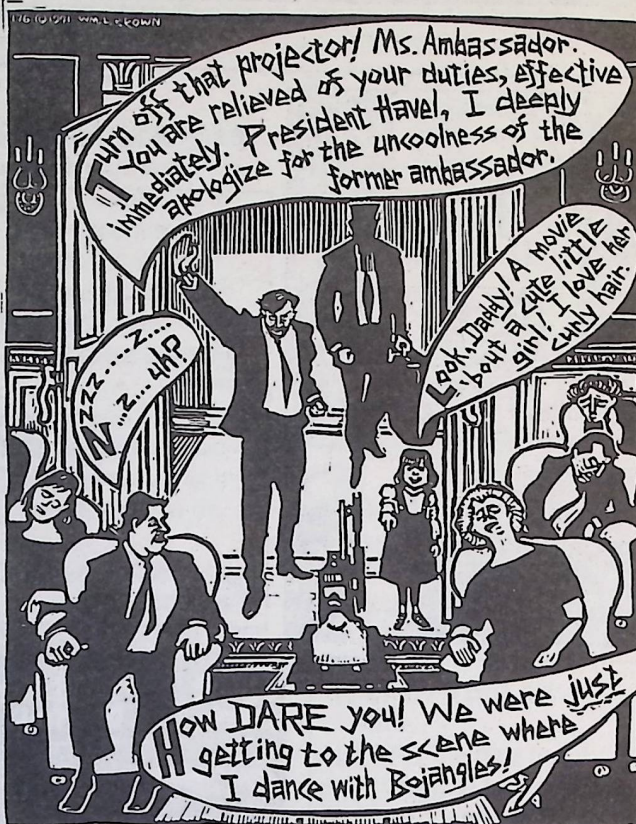


# PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

## © PRESIDENT BILL

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic was my next stop. I went there to install my new ambassador, replacing a previous president's political appointee. I disdained the practice of appointing cronies, party hacks, or contributors to ambassadorships. In most cases, it was best to appoint career foreign service officers because of their dedication to a long-range, comprehensive foreign policy, not to the narrow interests of one president or party. A political appointment gave the impression that the United States didn't take the host country seriously.

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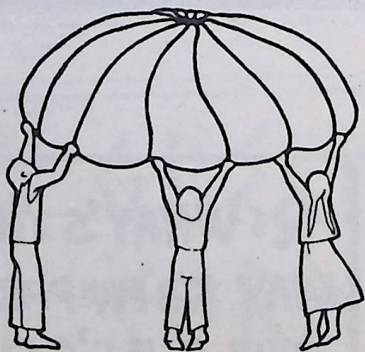
## © PRESIDENT BILL

Although I preferred to appoint career diplomats to ambassadorships, my appointee to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, home of the world's finest beer, was not a foreign-service officer, but neither was he a crony nor a favor seeker. I admired him for his work against artistic censorship. The new Czech-Slovak government, which—not unlike my own administration—was largely made up of dissidents, artisans, and intellectuals, admired him for his artistic work, which had sustained and inspired them in their struggle against the previous totalitarian regime.

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"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Broadside Bookshop, Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.



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## EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

### Floods

Severe flooding continued to cover many areas of Texas, where residents described the inundation as more like a floating lake than overflowing rivers. The muddy Brazos River climbed to its highest level in two decades, and residents rushed to pull up carpets and put furniture on sawhorses before their homes were flooded. Fire ants swarmed out of their soaked mounds, and huge snakes were seen hanging from trees, where they had climbed to stay dry.

More heavy rains and snow fell over the Middle East. Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan ground to a halt as the worst snowstorm in 25 years struck the region. A month of regular stormy spells has alleviated the severe drought that has long troubled the region.

### Rain Prayers

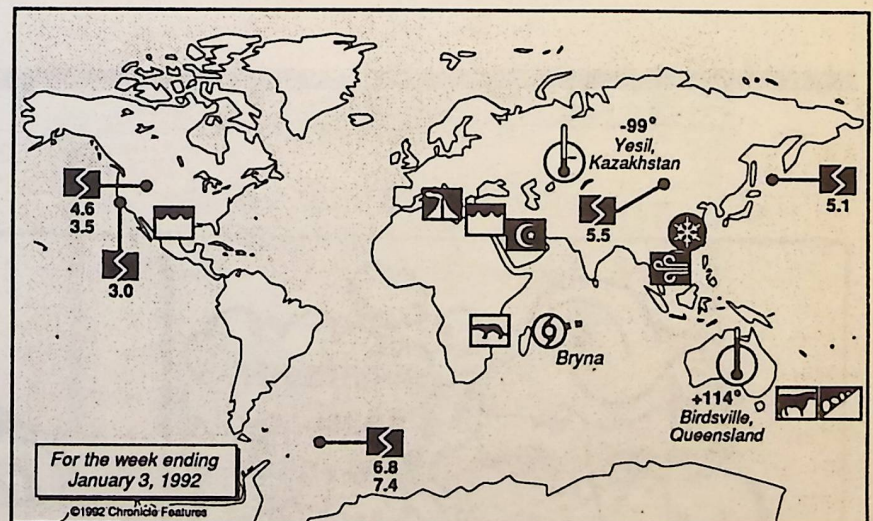
While areas of the eastern Mediterranean have had far more rain than needed for several weeks, the rainy season has yet to set in across Saudi Arabia and other members of the gulf states. In accordance with the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed, Saudi King Fahd called for rain prayers to be held throughout the kingdom.

### Earthquakes

Two of 1991's most powerful earthquakes jolted the sparsely populated South Sandwich Islands in the far South Atlantic. Earth movements were also felt in Mongolia, the Kuril Islands, two locations in Idaho, and in central California.

### Volcano

Lava flowing from the side of Sicily's Mount Etna destroyed fields and barns. Earthen dikes were built to stop the flow from reaching a village that had just had its natural spring water supply covered by the lava.



### Human-Eaters

Hungry lions killed five people and 100 goats in villages of the southern Tanzanian districts of Lindi and Songea. Most farmers in the two areas have abandoned work on their farms in fear of the roaming lions, since four of the dead were attacked while working in their fields. Tanzanian wildlife sources believe that the beasts may have turned to eating people because hunters have killed most of the game which are their natural prey.

### Deadly Winds

Violent whirlwinds in Vietnam left 100 people dead, 491 missing, and sank about 300 boats. The first hit the coast of Quang Ngai province, killing 78 people. The second killed another 22 in Quang Nam-Danang province to the north, the site of a major U.S. military base during the Vietnam War.

### New Zealand Avalanche

Two Australian students were killed, and one rescued, after they were swept into a crevasse by a small avalanche on the South Pacific's highest mountain. Officials said the slide occurred only 50 yards from the site of a huge avalanche a few weeks ago on Mount Cook. That slide lowered the 12,349-foot peak by several feet.

### Tropical Storm

Tropical storm Bryna formed and gained strength between Seychelles and Mauritius, then moved slowly toward northern Madagascar.

### Snowy Chill

Record snowfall ended a severe drought in many parts of eastern China, but snarled transportation. A wintry chill blew as far south as Hong Kong, where the coldest day in 16 years was recorded.

### Bovine Bedlam

Dairy farmers in New Zealand's Taranaki district are puzzled about why their cows frequently go berserk, leaping fences and bolting and charging through sheds for no apparent reason. Disturbances broke out simultaneously on eight adjoining farms six times during December, and farmers say milk production was seriously disrupted. One of the farmers, Gregory How, said he narrowly escaped death when 200 cows suddenly made an about-face on a narrow track and hurtled toward him. The farmers suspected that their livestock were being spooked by electrical shocks traveling through the ground, but the Taranaki Electricity Corp. said their local system did not carry enough power to cause that sort of problem.

Additional Sources: Hong Kong Royal Observatory, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

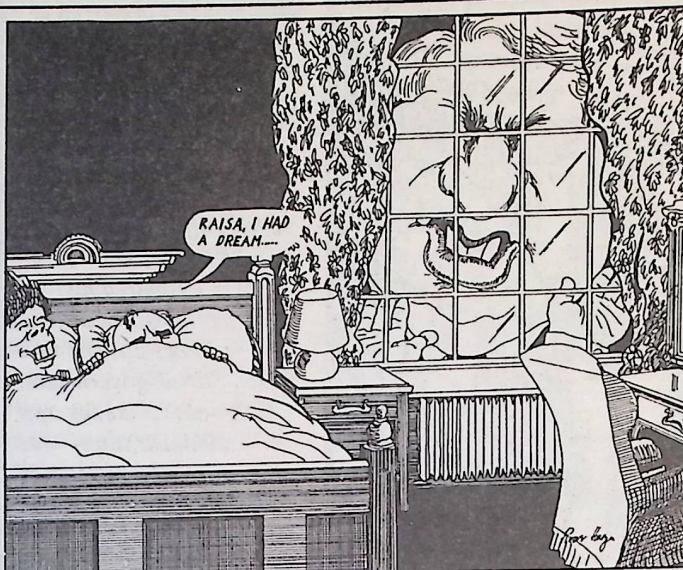


# VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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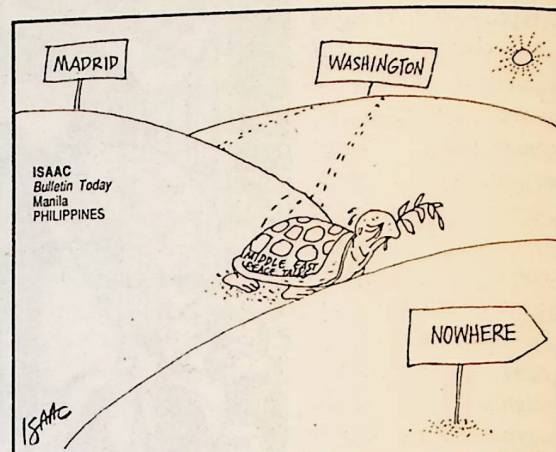


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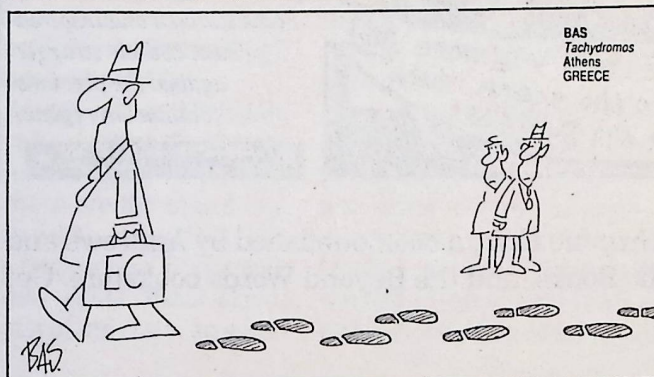


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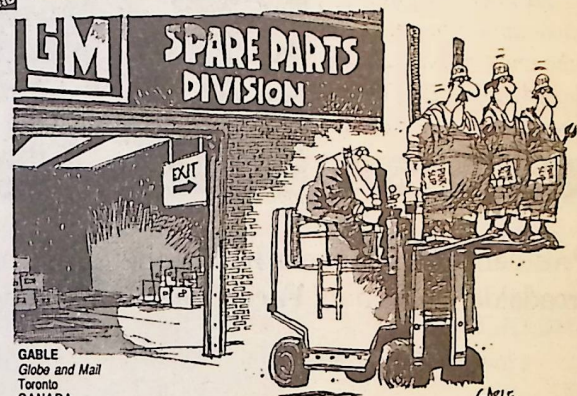


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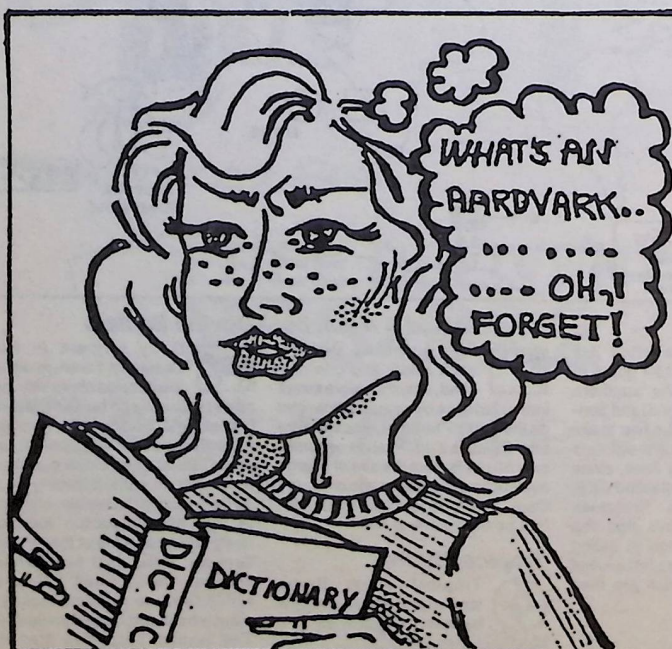
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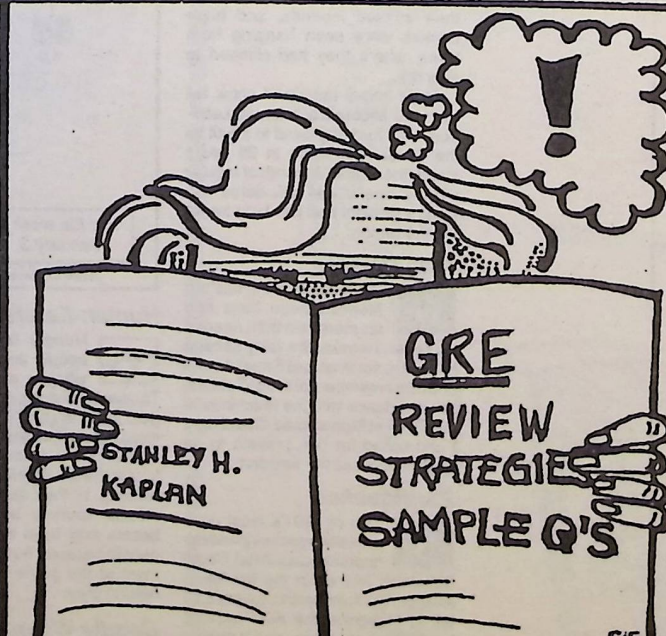
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MEMORIES OF YUGOSLAVIA



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G.R.E. OPTION B

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# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

BY L. M. BOYD

Another reason geese do so well on guard duty, according to a security specialist, is they can't be bribed.

The hair of some people can't be combed. At last report, medical statisticians had identified 46 cases of "uncombable hair syndrome." Each hair shaft is triangular, not round, and grooved its full length on one side.

You can deodorize smelly sneakers with salt.

TV count in the average American home is reported at 2.25 sets. That was before Christmas.

It is a matter of record that the renowned Sigmund Freud once said he utterly failed to understand women. And he suggested that those who want to understand women should read the poets, not the psychologists.

Napoleon wore cashmere underwear.

Hardly anybody in the United States outside of Hawaii can name the one state with its own language.

Residents of at least one town — Hull, Mass., to be specific — voted to add vanilla scent to their municipal sewage processor. So their treatment plant would smell like a bakery.

Since July of 1862, it has been against the law in Paris, France, to spin a top on a sidewalk.

Q. When was the first of the student protests?  
A. Didn't I mention that? First in the record at hand was the Great Butter Rebellion at Harvard in 1766. The student battle cry was: "Lo, our butter stinketh!"

You read that Peter Minuit bought Manhattan Island for \$24, but you rarely also read he was fined for it by the Dutch on a charge of extravagance.

A man on the phone told me "separate" is one of the 10 most misspelled words in English. Stand by. Am trying to look up the other nine.

A usually reliable collector of interesting monikers insists he has found a surgeon named O. O. Oops.

Q. How many volcanoes erupt every year?  
A. About 50. And that's just on earth.

"An old Talmudic teaching says every child is born with a message to deliver to the human race," writes a client. "Mine is pretty deep. It goes: 'Have a nice day.'"

In the NFL, the host team has to have 26 footballs inflated and ready to play.

Before the electric washing machine, most bed changers put the top sheet on the bottom, the bottom sheet in the laundry, and a clean sheet on top.

Tucked among the ordinances of Colorado Springs, Colo., is one that authorizes police to jail a waiter who insults a customer.

Any student of the violin except a genius needs seven to ten years to learn to play the instrument professionally, according to a university music professor.

To save money, February is the best month to buy used cars, even as October is the best month to buy bicycles. So says a retail market watcher.

Wasn't until World War II that belts first outsold suspenders.

Q. What was the first European language spoken on the shores of North America?  
A. Old Norse. It's still spoken with slight modifications in Iceland.

The original Coca-Cola was green.

Doctors say a half hour of acute boredom can burn up more nervous energy than a whole day's work, but they don't detail the how of it. Can you explain it?

Nearly half of the bank robbers nationwide hit on Friday.

If tomato sauce didn't retain heat better than almost all other edibles, the home-delivered pizza probably wouldn't be anywhere nearly as successful. So contends a market researcher.

Texas was turning out wine more than 100 years before California got around to that enterprise.

Q. The word "cigarette" comes from the word "cigar." But where did "cigar" come from?  
A. From "cicada." The first cigars supposedly looked somewhat like beetles.

If all brooms hadn't originally been made from the stalks of "broom-corn," no doubt they'd be called something else.

Pet feeders, please note, "Alpo" was first named "All-Pro."

Native American historians say there was never a standard code of smoke signals.

It was England's Queen Elizabeth I who made smoking fashionable among women.

The senior Alexander Dumas once said that if he could relive his life to his own specifications, he'd be a good-looking woman until age 30, then a victorious general until 50, and finally a Cardinal.

Fuel was rationed during World War II, and everywhere was chilly. Onto the market jumped the jeweled cardigan sweater. Fashion follows function, what?

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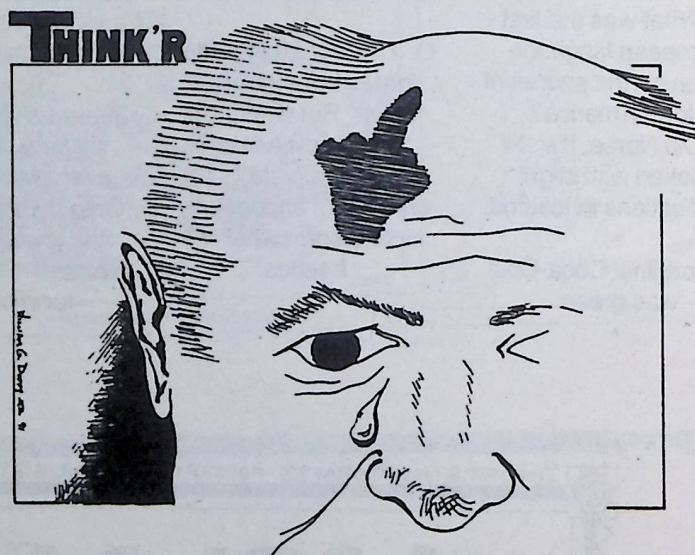
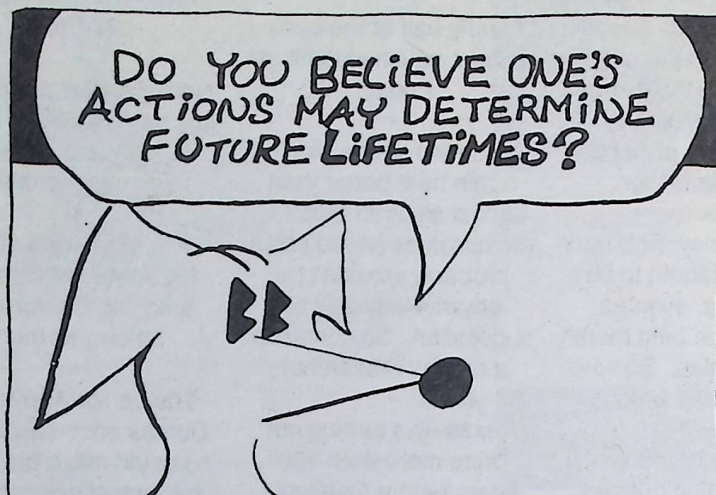
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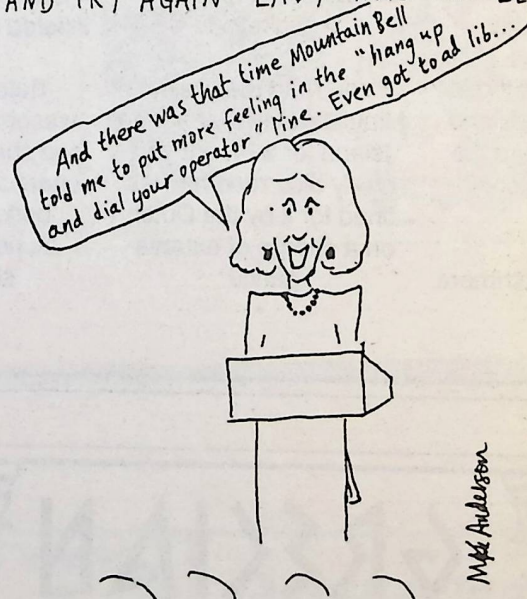
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## KIRBY Kiwi

By JASON WHITON



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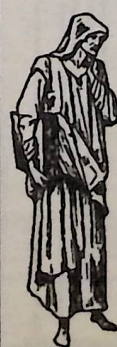
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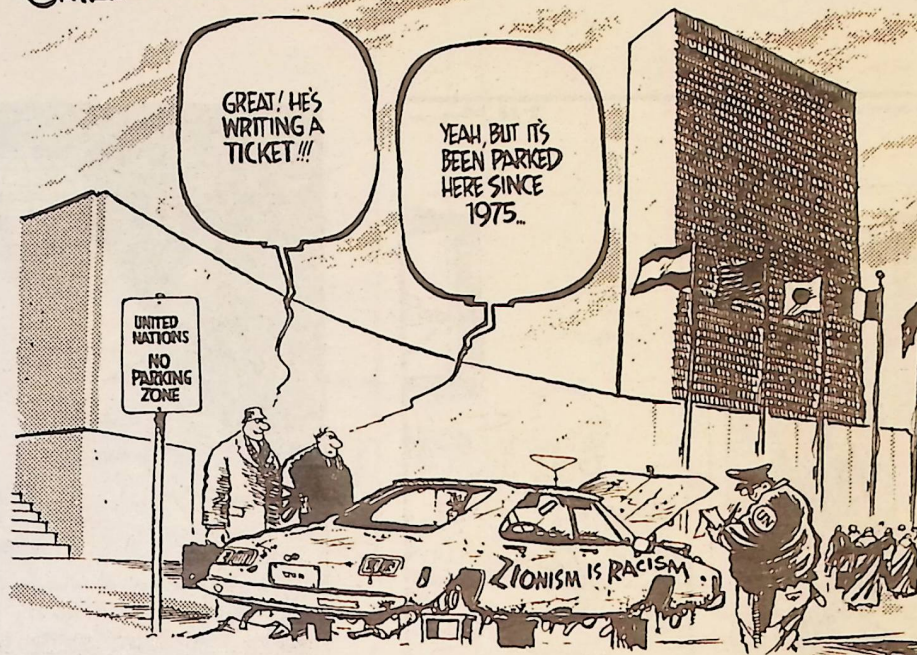
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# IN OTHER NEWS...

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IT'S STRANGE... SERBS ARE KILLING CROATS...



... CROATS ARE KILLING SERBS...



... AND I CAN'T FIND ANY REFERENCE TO...



... WHITE-ON-WHITE VIOLENCE



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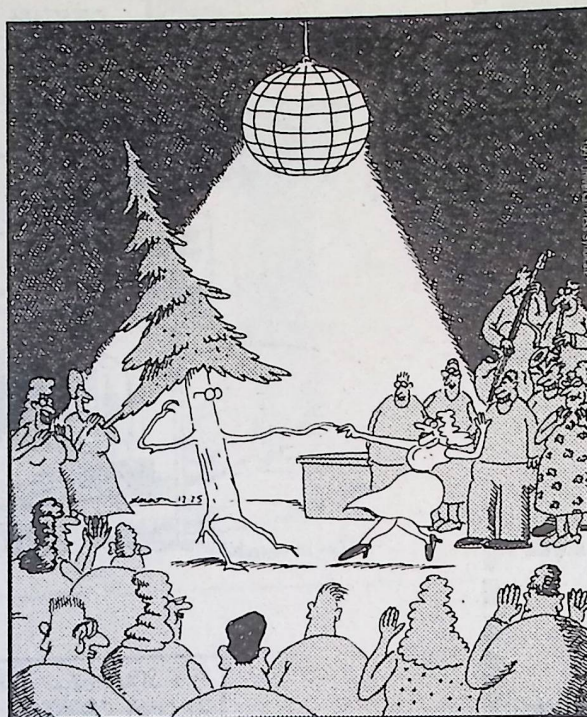


# THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Egad! Willard's home early! Don't move — his vision's not very good, but his sense of smell and hearing are quite acute."



Carl had never had so much fun in his whole life, and he knew, from this moment on, that he would never again be a lone pine tree.



"I'm starting to worry about you, Earl. ... Stalking sheep in that outfit is one thing, but wearing it around the house is just a little kinky."

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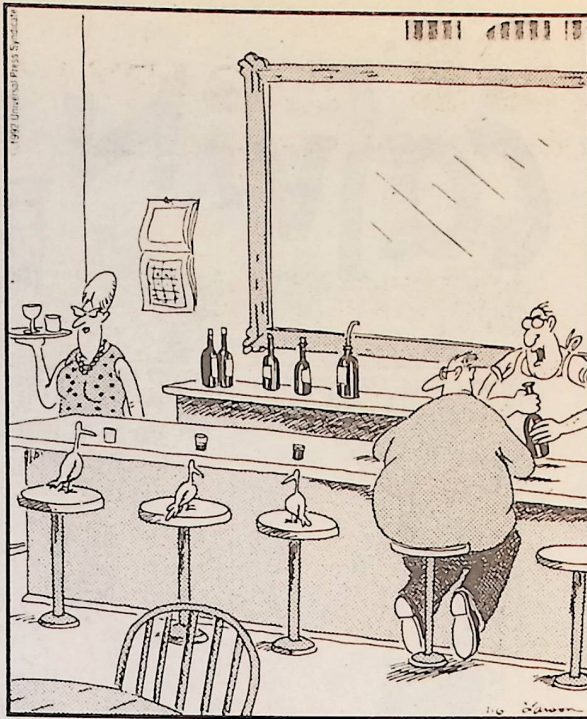
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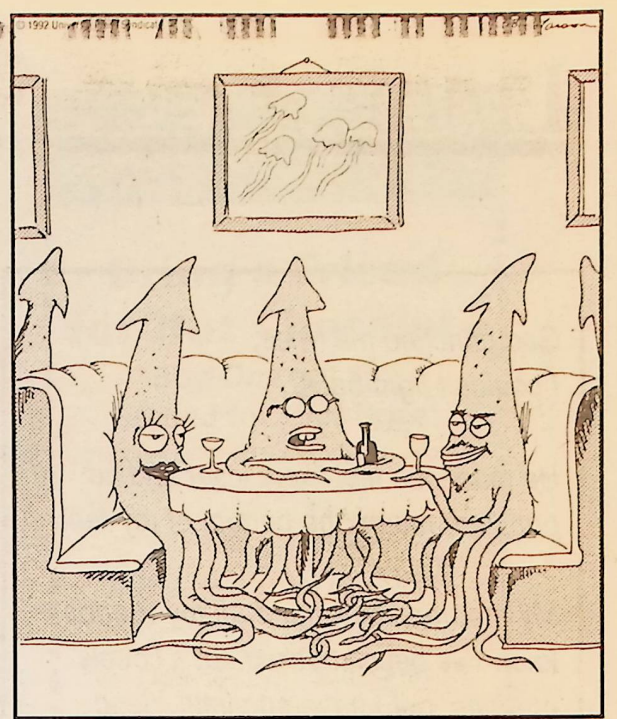




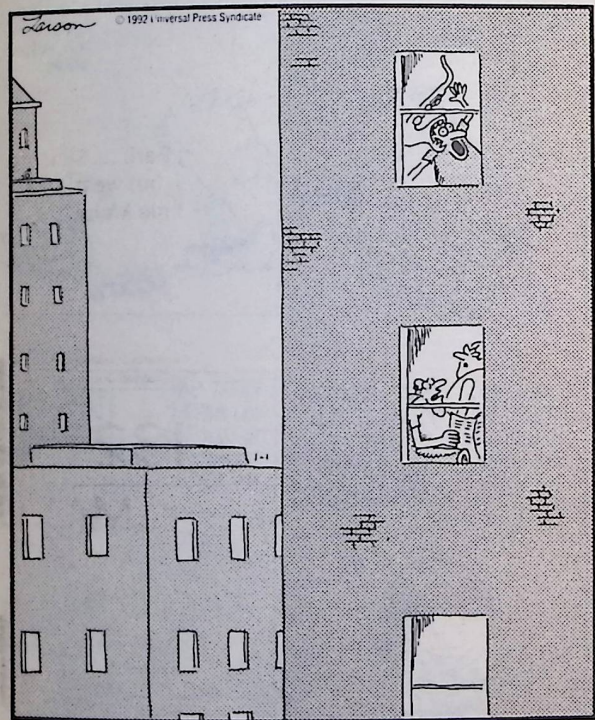
That night, their revenge was meted out on both Farmer MacDougal and his wife. The next day, police investigators found a scene that they could describe only as "grisly, yet strangely hilarious."



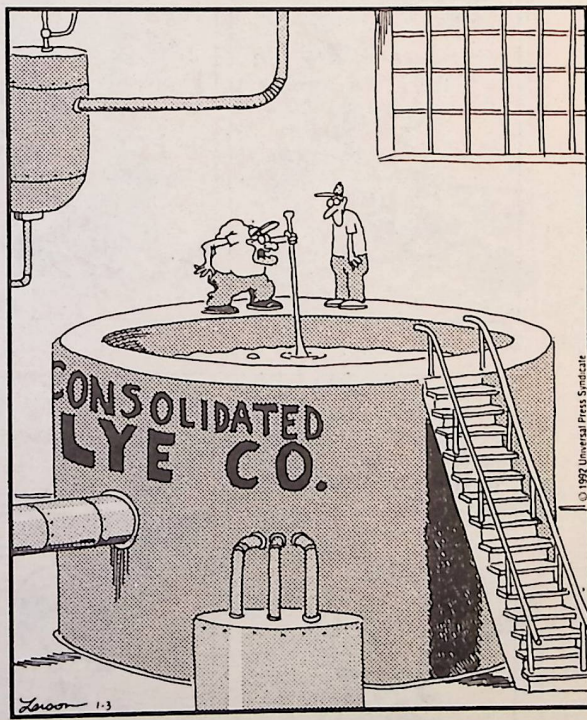
"I hate 'em. They mess on the stools, they attack the mirror — and, of course, they drink like birds."



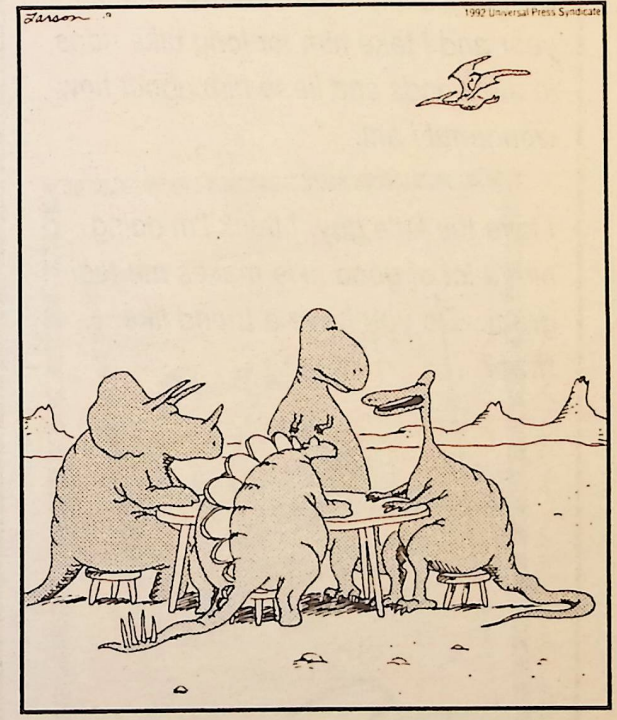
Darren was unaware that, under the table, his wife and Raymond were playing "tentacles."



"Whoa! Listen to that, Marge! I thought that kid was playing a mean sax!"



"New guy, huh? Well, up here, you walk the edge! And the edge is a fickle hellcat. ... Love her, but never trust her, for her heart is full of LYE!"



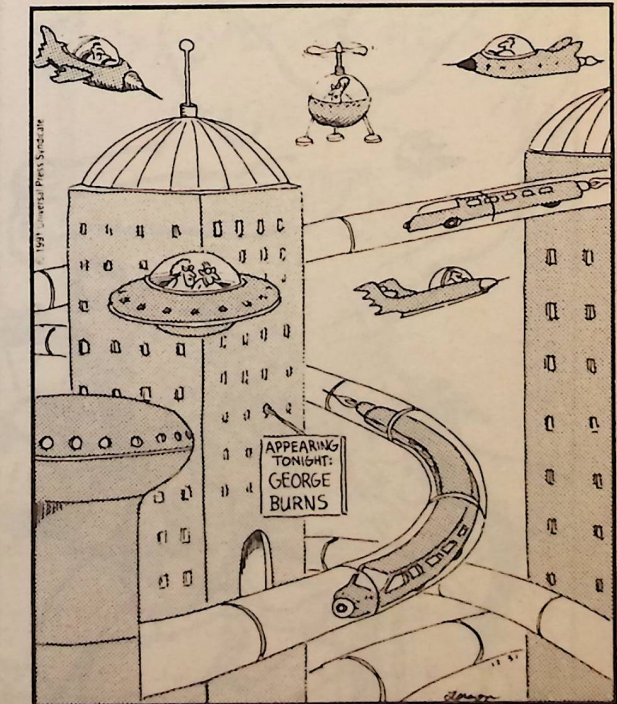
"Well, time for our weekly brain-stem-storming session."



Appliance healers



"Those snakes? Oh, they're just signing, honey."





# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATKINSON

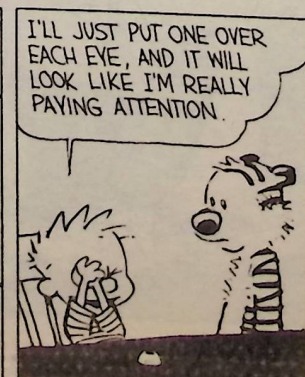
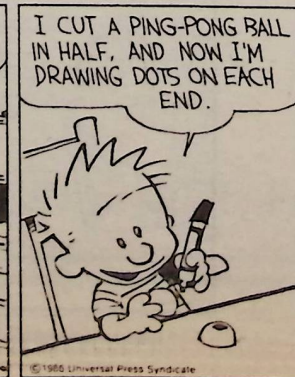
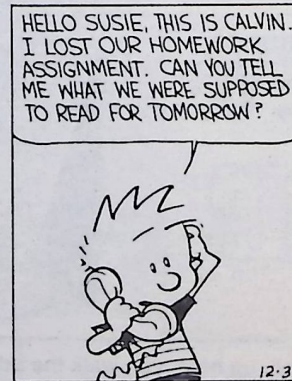
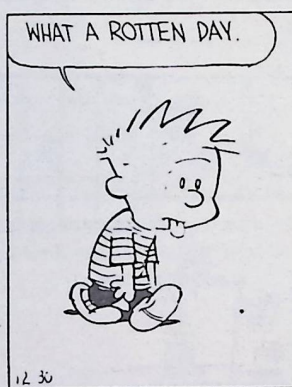
God punched me twice.  
I couldn't fight back.

He made me feel like a loser and he  
punched me on the bottom of my feet.

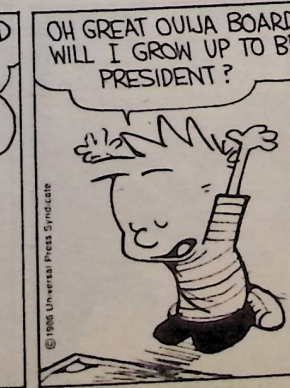
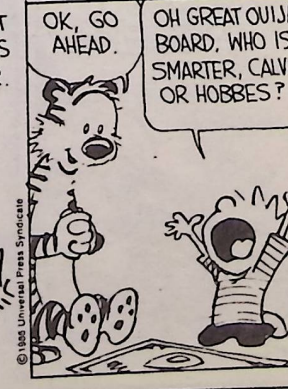
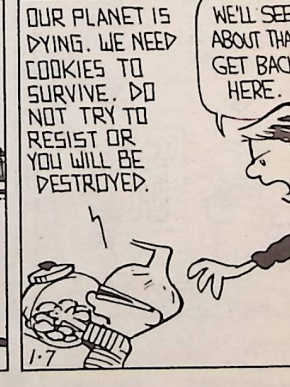
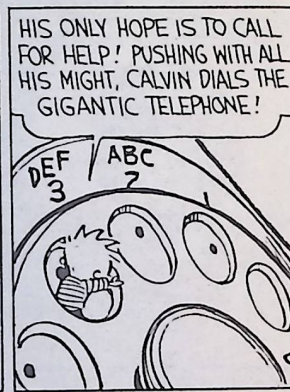
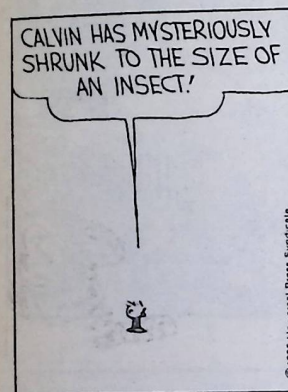
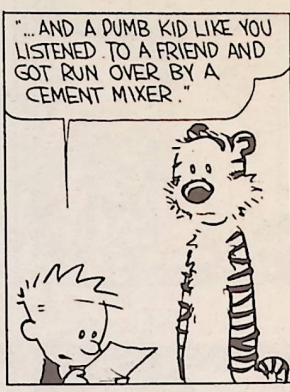
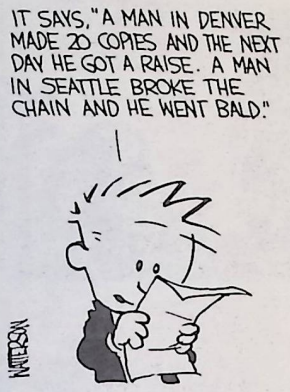
My mother, father and all my friends  
know I've been knocked out a couple  
of times, but I have one little friend  
who doesn't know.

So I buy him presents a few times a  
year and I take him for long bike rides  
in the woods and lie to him about how  
wonderful I am.

I love the little guy. I think I'm doing  
him a lot of good. He makes me feel  
great. Do you have a friend like  
that?







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# humor me

by Izzy Gesell

There is a lot of male-bashing going on these days, and guys are getting very testy. Men have become more sensitive than George Bush's pollsters. And what gets our goat the most? Being ribbed about our foibles, idiosyncrasies and downright foolishness. It is not a pretty sight, that of a man pleading to be taken seriously. We can't take it. We are wimps when it comes to facing the fact that we can be on the sneering end of a comment or observation, especially about something related to our sensitive or gentle side. You know, the side we love using to our advantage.

A case in point is the male reaction to the tremendous amount of fun being poked at the men's movement. Guys all over this country (I'm assuming the men's movement is a North American phenomenon. Can't quite picture a French, Italian or Mexican movement just yet. I could be wrong, though) are ticked off because people out there (especially women) actually have the temerity to MAKE FUN of male habits that are not sport or sex oriented. Guys are sputteringly aghast when asked to explain why men NEED a movement.

"Well... we need to bond and we need to share with other men and we need to go out in the woods and make animal noises and be without women for awhile and say things to our dads that we couldn't say to our dads and get in touch with the essence of being a male."

What did we expect? Ever since that sappy column "About Men," started appearing in the New York Times in the early 1980's, every guy capable of putting 500 words together has been broadcasting how great it is for a male to finally be able to cry, and describing in tabloid detail the joy at realizing his tears were salty too, just like a woman's. Just because we decided to get together in groups and bang the drum loudly and try to connect with our primal alter-ego, did we think no one would see that what we really have is a Cub Scout pack without a Den Mother?

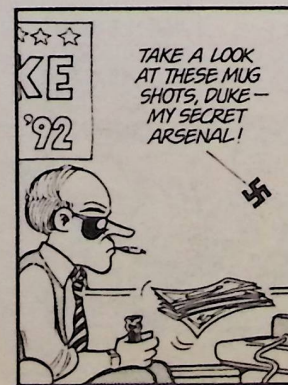
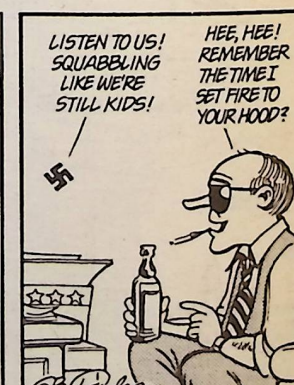
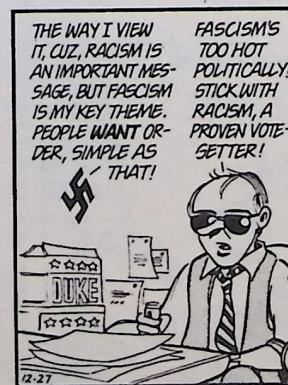
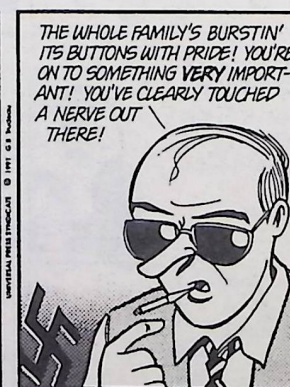
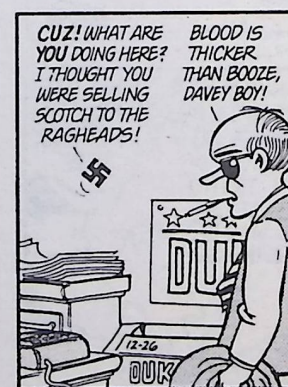
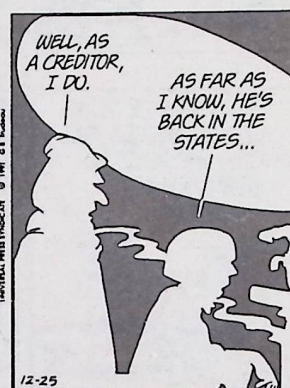
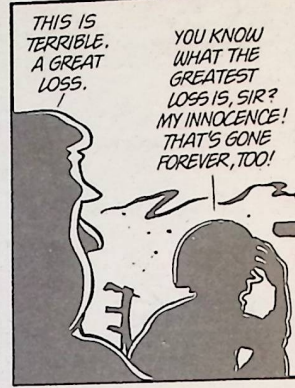
The spokesMEN for the men's movement are almost whiny in their response to criticism. There is a sacredness plastered onto this movement that I just don't get. Fellow fellows, why are we so sensitive about it? Do we not agree we've had it pretty much our way for the last 22 zillion years? And can we admit it's because we are stronger, not because we are smarter? Sure, we are mad that the world no longer stands still for our version of right and wrong and that IS a hard thing to give up.

I do believe that men should gather to ask important questions. Let's spend our time together examining essences of maleness: why are we embarrassed to ask for directions? Why can we play games when our limbs are broken but we can't get out of bed to blow our nose when we have a cold? Is our love for the Three Stooges environmental or hereditary?

I'll bring the Good and Plenty.

# Doonesbury


BY G.B. TRUDEAU








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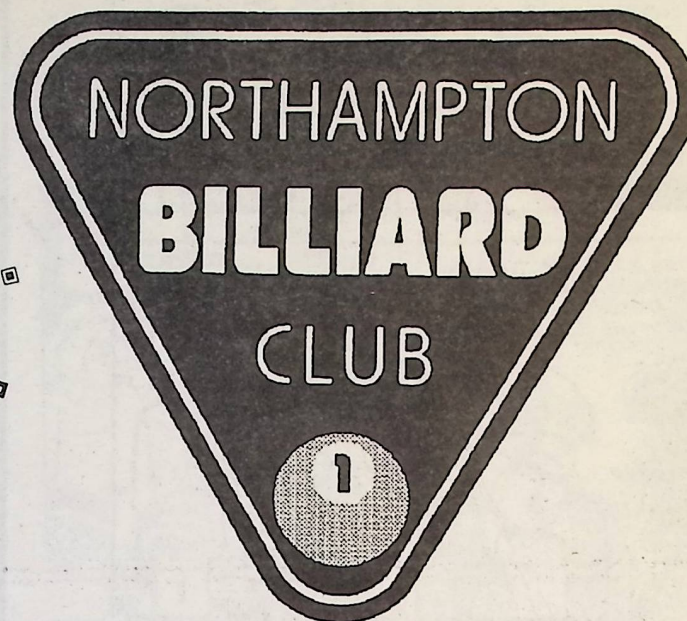
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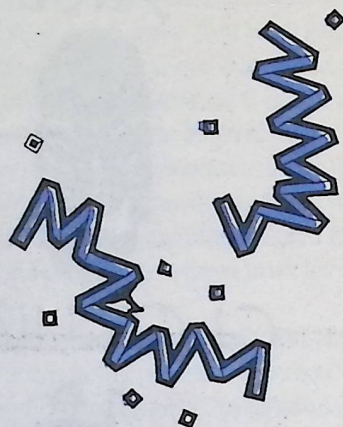
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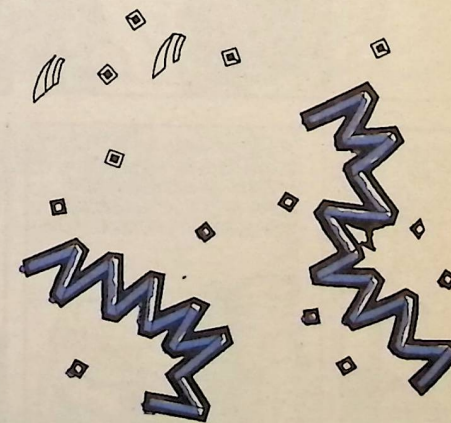


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